

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 DHA-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/058 W

-----252342Z 115624 /66

O 252255Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4109

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, ES

SUBJECT: BORGONOVO KIDNAPPING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1852

1. SUMMARY. BORGONOVO REMAINS MISSING. THE GOES REMAINS MUTE. THE MINISTER'S FAMILY IS TRYING VARIOUS OTHER MEANS TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE AND THE FPL TO CHANGE ITS DEMANDS. A PURPORTED FPL ULTIMATUM IS BEING BROADCAST WHICH SAYS BORGONOVO WILL BE EXECUTED IF THE PRISONERS ARE NOT RELEASED BY WEDNESDAY. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER MAURICIO BORGONOVO REMAINS IN THE HANDS OF THE FPL. THE GOES, SIX DAYS AFTER HIS KIDNAP, STILL HAS NOT ISSUED A FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE FPL'S INITIAL DEMANDS FOR THE RELEASE OF 37 POLITICAL PRISONERS.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (REFTEL)

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CLAIMING THAT COMPLIANCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY THREE PRISONERS ON THE FPL LIST IN ITS POSSESSION, ARE THE ONLY CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF WHICH DIRECTION MOLINA EXPECTS TO GO.

3. LOCAL PAPERS OVER THE WEEKEND WERE FULL OF APPEALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS SIDES, FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS. A GOOD

DEAL OF THESE WERE GENERATED BY THE BORGONOVO FAMILY, APPEALING TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE FPL, AND OTHER AUDIENCES, TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE MINISTER'S RELEASE. FPL COMMUNIQUE, IN THE FORM OF RE-

SPONSES TO BORGONOVO'S MOTHER'S APPEALS, HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE. JUST AFTER THE PRESIDENT SPOKE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE ARMED FORCE ISSUED A STRONGLY WORDED ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS SUPPORT FOR MOLINA'S DECISION(WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT IT WAS). FOR SOMEWHAT HARD TO FATHOM MOTIVES, GENERAL ALBERTO "CHELE" MEDRANO, HERO OF THE 1969 WAR AND RECENT SPOKESMAN FOR THOSE RETIRED OFFICERS WHO SAW CLARAMOUNT AS A CANDIDATE OF THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY TO CAPTURE EL SALVADOR, WENT ON RADIO APRIL 23 WITH A CALL FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE. MEDRANO, DESCRIBING HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SAID THE GOES SHOULD NOT HAVE HIDDEN POLITICAL PRISONERS. ANYONE ACCUSED OF ANY CRIME, HE SAID, INCLUDING SUBVERSION, SHOULD BE CHARGED AND TRIED, NOT SIMPLY "DISAPPEAR". NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW, MEDRANO PROCLAIMED, AND THE PRESENT VIOLENCE CAN ONLY LEAD THE NATION TO CHAOS.

4. EARLY IN THE AM HOURS OF APRIL 25, SEVERAL MEDIA PEOPLE RECEIVED CALLS FROM PERSONS CLAIMING RPT CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR THE FPL. THE CALLER SAID THE GOES HAS UNTIL MIDNIGHT APRIL 26 TO MEET THE PRISONER RELEASE DEMAND OR ELSE THE FPL WILL EXECUTE BORGONOVO ON APRIL 27 THIS ULTIMATUM HAS BEEN BROADCAST OVER RADIO, INDICATING THE GOVERNMENT EITHER BELIEVES THE THREAT OR WANTS OTHERS TO. THE METHOD OF DELIVERY, THE FACT THAT IT WAS ORAL NOT WRITTEN, AND THE TONE OF THE MESSAGE ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS FPL COMMUNICATIONS.

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RCPM ANOTHER BORGONOVO FAMILY ATTEMPT TO GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING, AND GET THE GOVERNMENT OFF THE "WE HAVE NO PRISONERS" HOOK, WAS A VISIT BY MINISTER'S BROTHER TO THE UCS, THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION. THE BROTHER SAID THAT IF THE UCS CAN GET BETWEEN KIDNAPPERS AND GOES, THE BORGONOVO FAMILY WOULD OFFER 1000 MANZANAS OF FAMILY PROPERTY TO LANDLESS CAMPESINOS IN RETURN FOR BORGONOVO'S RELEASE (AT AVERAGE PRICE PER MANZANA OF GOOD FARM LAND, THIS IS OFFER OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS).

6. IN POSSIBLY RELATED EVENT, RUBEN ZAMORA, HEAD OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND A LEADER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH WING (ALSO LAST YEAR LEADER GRANTEE) WAS ARRESTED NIGHT OF APRIL 22, ALONG WITH WIFE AND COMPANION. UNCONFIRMED REPORT TODAY CLAIMS MRS. ZAMORA HAS BEEN RELEASED, BUT HE AND COMPANION WILL BE TURNED OVER TO CURTS FOR PROSECUTION. CHARGES ARE AS YET UNSPECIFIED, BUT EMBASSY HAS HEARD ZAMORA IS SUSPECTED BY SECURITY SERVICES OF HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH ERP.
LOZANO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS01894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0207
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770423/aaaaatbj.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 142f969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 1852
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2704343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORGONOVO KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, ES, FPL, (BORGONOVO, MAURICIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/142f969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009